

Governor Patrick Selected to Speak at 2009 Commencement

By Nick Bushak
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick, leader in clean energy policy and proponent of education and research, will give this year's commencement address. Those involved in the decision and student leaders praised the choice, while students' opinions ranged from impressed to indifferent.

Patrick is the second elected African American governor in United States history. He attended Harvard College, graduating in 1978, and Harvard Law School, graduating in 1982. As the governor, Patrick is an ex-officio member of the MIT Corporation.

Professor William E. Grimson PhD '80, chair of the Commencement Committee, said that Patrick has "been a pretty vocal spokesman for ... green energy and the environment."

Grimson added that Patrick is working closely with academia to accomplish his policy goals. The



PERRY HUNG—TECH FILE PHOTO

Deval Patrick, governor of Massachusetts, was chosen to be the guest speaker at MIT's 2009 Commencement Ceremony on June 5. Patrick, the second ever African-American elected American governor, has already spoken at MIT twice before; here he is seen outlining a \$3.8 billion bond proposal on April 9, 2008 in the Tang Auditorium.

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Ragon Donates \$100 Million to Start HIV Research Institute Near Kendall

By Omar Abudayyeh
STAFF REPORTER

MIT alumnus Phillip T. Ragon '71 pledged \$100 million last Wednesday to fund a multidisciplinary research institute dedicated to developing an HIV vaccine. The Ragon Institute will bring together scientists, engineers, and doctors from MIT, Harvard, and Massachusetts General Hospital under Bruce Walker, an AIDS researcher at Massachusetts General Hospital.

The money will be distributed

\$10 million at a time over 10 years. It will fund research and pay for a new building in Kendall Square.

Walker's goal is to muster the physical sciences, technology, engineering, and immunology in a combined approach to battling HIV, he said.

While no one will be packing up and moving labs any time soon, the institute will eventually link dozens of researchers from diverse fields in search of an AIDS vaccine, said Professor of Chemical Engineering Arup

Chakraborty. "Bruce Walker had this vision that everyone coalesced around," said Chakraborty, who also serves on the Ragon Institute's 6-person steering committee.

According to Walker, the committee plans to build the institute at Kendall Square. Walker said right now the committee does not know how much space the institute will need, but he hopes to begin construction in a couple years.

Ragon Institute, Page 9

Mingling Wit with Wisdom, 'Ninja Motivator' Teaches

Sunday Night Speaker Entertains Audiences at Kresge

By Maggie Lloyd

Josh Shipp is in your face, but on your side. Last Sunday evening, the twenty-something "motivational ninja" spoke at Kresge Auditorium to a crowd of about 200, pausing in between wisecracks to encourage students to make positive choices.

Shipp's talk, "Don't be Average," veers between irreverent stand-up and solemn motivational speech. In a single breath he switched from sharing his experiences as a foster child to describing the effects of snorting Pixie Stix.

"He strikes a really great balance between comedy, entertainment and inspiration," Anne Shen '11 said. Shen first heard Shipp talk four years ago, when she was a sophomore in high school. She said she was "blown away" by how easily he con-

nects with teen audiences.

Shen began working this fall on bringing Shipp to speak on campus. The talk, which cost about \$4000, was funded by the Student Activities Office, the Student Leader Development Office, the ASA and Baker House.

Shipp likes to talk to the audience, not at it. During his speech, he announced that the MIT audience freaked him out because the crowd began and ended their laughs together.

"You're like 'Haha — okay, I'm done,'" he teased.

Shipp shared some possible names for his children. So far, his choices are Leader Shipp, Member Shipp, Pirate Shipp, and, of course, Bull Shipp.

At times, the talk turned serious.

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Brass Rat Unveiled; LHC, Koch Highlight New Additions to Ring

By Maggie Lloyd

Unveiled amid laughter and hijinx at Kresge Auditorium last Friday, the Class of 2011 Brass Rat features a forward-facing beaver and all the usual winks and nods, this year depicting the goddess Athena, hackers on the Dome, and a salute to the newly-completed Large Hadron Collider.

The 2011 Rat will cost between \$5 to \$29 less than last year's thanks to a dip in gold prices in late winter, when the Ring Committee locked in ring prices. Gold prices have since climbed 22 percent.

"We just got so lucky," said Ring

Committee Secretary Anisha V. Deshmane '11. "We got it at the lowest price we could have."

The bezel shows a beaver sitting on the Harvard bridge at night with the Red Line train passing along the Longfellow bridge. Crushed beneath the beaver are eight ivy leaves, one of which is a spade, commemorating the release of the movie "21" and the class's freshman orientation theme, which was a riff on "Casino Royale."

The MIT mascot holds a globe and a diploma in one hand, empha-

Ring Premiere, Page 8



YUANYU CHEN—THE TECH

Class of 2011 Ring Committee Chair Mitchell T. Westwood '11 and Vice Chair Anita Y. Lin '11 unveil the Brass Rat bezel at the Class of 2011 Ring Premiere ceremony, held last Friday in Kresge Auditorium.



DAVID M. TEMPLETON—THE TECH

(right to left) Chancellor Phillip L. Clay PhD '75 speaks to the Undergraduate Association Senate as UA President Noah S. Jessop '09 and UA Vice President Michael A. Bennie '10 look on Monday evening in W20-400.



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OPINION

Jegan Vincent de Paul calls on the international community to intervene and save the Tamils from Sri Lanka.

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CAMPUS LIFE

S. Campbell Proehl considers a simpler life.

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Michael Lin flogs the gift horse.

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WORLD & NATION

Suicide Bomber Kills At Least 28 In Sri Lanka

By Thomas Fuller

THE NEW YORK TIMES

COLOMBO, SRI LANKA

A female suicide bomber hiding among refugees fleeing the war zone in northern Sri Lanka killed at least 20 soldiers and eight civilians at a checkpoint on Monday, the government said.

A string of victories in recent weeks raised hopes that more than two decades of intermittent civil war between government forces and the Tamil Tigers may soon be over. But the attack raised the prospect that the Tigers would revert to their hallmark tactics of guerrilla warfare and suicide attacks if they lose control of their final patch of territory — about 100 square miles of the Jaffna Peninsula.

The attack, the first of its magnitude in a month, also left dozens wounded. It took place in the northern district of Mullaitivu in an area that the government said had been wrested from the rebels.

The bomber joined civilians being searched by government soldiers after they fled the war zone in the north of the country, where government forces have taken several rebel strongholds and pushed the rebel into a wedge. The authorities have urged noncombatants to flee into areas under the government’s control, but tens of thousands of civilians — perhaps as many as 250,000 — may be trapped.

Rodriguez Admits Using Performance-Enhancing Drugs

By Michael S. Schmidt

THE NEW YORK TIMES

Alex Rodriguez admitted in an interview with ESPN on Monday that he used performance-enhancing drugs for several seasons at the beginning of this decade, but he said he has not used the substances since then.

“When I arrived at Texas in 2001 I felt an enormous amount of pressure to perform, and perform at a high level every day,” Rodriguez told Peter Gammons. “I was young. I was stupid. I was naive. And I wanted to prove to everyone that I was worth being one of the greatest players of all time. I did take a banned substance, and for that I am very sorry and deeply regretful.”

The acknowledgment by Rodriguez came two days after Sports Illustrated’s Web site, SI.com, reported that Rodriguez had tested positive for steroids in 2003, when he was in his last season with the Texas Rangers and won the first of his three Most Valuable Player awards.

The next season, Rodriguez joined the Yankees. He currently is the highest paid player in baseball and widely viewed as the most talented.

Scholastic Accused of Misusing Book Clubs

By Motoko Rich

THE NEW YORK TIMES

Scholastic Inc., the children’s publisher of favorites like the Harry Potter, Goosebumps and Clifford series, may be best known for its books, but a consumer watchdog group accuses the company of using its classroom book clubs to push video games, jewelry kits and toy cars.

The Campaign for a Commercial-Free Childhood, an advocacy group based in Boston, said that it had reviewed monthly fliers distributed by Scholastic last year and found that one-third of the items sold in these brochures were either not books or books packaged with other items.

Based on a review of brochures in Scholastic’s Lucky Club for children in second and third grade, and its Arrow Club for fourth through sixth-graders, the group said that 14 percent of the items were not books, while an additional 19 percent were books sold with other trinkets like stickers, posters and toys.

Obama Makes Case As Stimulus Bill Clears Hurdle

By Sheryl Gay Stolberg and Helene Cooper

THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

President Barack Obama took his case for his \$800 billion economic recovery package to the American people on Monday, as the Senate cleared the way for passage of the bill and the White House prepared for its next major hurdle: selling Congress and the public on a fresh plan to bail out the nation’s banks.

Warning that a failure to act “could turn a crisis into a catastrophe,” Obama used his presidential platform — a prime-time news conference, the first of his presidency, in the grand setting of the White House East Room — to address head on the concerns about his approach, which has by and large failed to win the Republican support he sought.

“The plan is not perfect,” Obama said in an eight-minute speech before taking reporters’ questions. “No plan is. I can’t tell you for sure that everything in this plan will work exactly as we hope, but I can tell you with complete confidence that a failure to act will only deepen this crisis.”

The news conference was the

centerpiece of an intense and highly orchestrated campaign by the administration to wrest control of the stimulus debate from Republicans and reframe it on Obama’s terms.

Earlier Monday, the president took his message on the road, traveling to one of the most economically distressed corners of the nation, Elkhart, Ind. — a city whose hard luck story, including an unemployment rate of 15.3 percent, he invoked hours later at the White House as he sought to highlight the severity of problems facing ordinary Americans.

“If there’s anyone out there who still doesn’t believe this constitutes a full-blown crisis,” Obama said, “I suggest speaking to one of the millions of Americans whose lives have been turned upside down because they don’t know where their next paycheck is coming from.”

As he has since the outset of his presidency, Obama sought to draw sharp distinctions between himself and his predecessor, on both domestic and foreign affairs.

He took a swipe at the economic policy championed by George W. Bush through good times and bad, saying that “tax cuts alone can’t

solve all of our economic problems.” He also criticized President Hamid Karzai of Afghanistan, a close ally of Bush. Yet he echoed Bush when he said the most “sobering moment” of his adaptation to the presidency has been writing letters to families of fallen troops.

Obama’s tone was for the most part serious and businesslike, and he was pointed in rebutting Republican criticisms of his economic plan, saying he was not willing to take advice from “the folks who presided over a doubling of the national debt.”

And while his answers were frequently lengthy, he steered clear of disclosing any details of the forthcoming bank bailout and housing plans or foreign policy initiatives.

The stimulus bill advanced in the Senate on Monday evening by a vote of 61-36; three centrist Republicans and two Independents joined 56 Democrats to move the legislation forward, with a vote on final passage expected Tuesday. But the bill passed by the Senate differs substantially from its counterpart in the House, and the two versions will have to be reconciled before Obama can sign the legislation into law.

Palestinians Stop Paying Israeli Hospitals for Patients

By Ethan Bronner

THE NEW YORK TIMES

JERUSALEM

Scores of Palestinian patients being treated in Israeli hospitals, a rare bright spot of coexistence here, are being sent home because the Palestinian Authority has stopped paying for their treatment, partly in anger over the war in Gaza.

Hadassah Hospital in Jerusalem says that for the past week, no payments have come in and Palestinians whose children it is treating have been instructed by Palestinian health officials to place them in facilities in the West Bank, Jordan or Egypt.

“Suddenly we have had 57 patients dropped from our rolls,” said Dr. Michael Weintraub, director of pediatric hematology, oncology and bone marrow transplantation at Hadassah. “We have been bombarded by frantic parents. This is a political

decision taken on the backs of patients.”

The Palestinian health minister, Fathi Abu Moghli, said he was examining the entire referral procedure because he was tired of adding to what he called Israel’s “oil well,” meaning the payments for Palestinian patient care. In particular, he said, he had no desire to see the wounded from the Gaza war receive Israeli care.

“We already pay \$7 million a month to Israeli hospitals,” he said in a telephone interview. “Since the first day of the Gaza aggression, I said that I will not send to my occupier my injured people in order for him to make propaganda at my expense, and then pay him for it.”

An Israeli clinic set up with great fanfare on the Israeli-Gaza border the day the war ended, Jan. 18, has already closed, since both Hamas, which governs Gaza, and the Pales-

tinian Authority essentially boycotted it. The Palestinian Authority pays for much of its citizens’ care in Israel from its budget.

Israel has long pointed to its medical care of Palestinians as an example of its advanced skills and humanitarianism. Palestinians generally are eager to gain the benefit, but are also resentful. As relations have chilled, each side has accused the other of political manipulation.

Dr. Abu Moghli said that with 24 hospitals in Gaza and the West Bank, there was no reason for so many Palestinian patients to go automatically to Israeli facilities, which he said were much more expensive and contributed to a culture of dependency.

“We can’t pay our government salaries this month, but at the same time I have to pay Israeli hospitals so much,” he said. “The Israelis have refused to reduce their costs.”

WEATHER

Warm Advection to the Rescue

By Angela Zalucha

STAFF METEOROLOGIST

Everybody knows it gets warmer when the sun is out, but sometimes we get some help from the wind. Normally people associate a winter wind with cold, since the flow of air removes heat generated by the body. However, when a strong, persistent wind blows from the southwest, the wind may transport warm air from the southern part of the country to New England. Meteorologists call the transport by wind of an atmospheric property (in this case heat) advection.

Sometimes advection can override the diurnal cycle of warm and cold. Today a low pressure system approaches us from the west, and the counterclockwise flow around the low pressure helps set up a flow from the southwest in our region. The temperature tonight will actually remain steady, as warm air is advected from the south and clouds help prevent the loss of surface radiation to space. Temperatures will continue to rise tomorrow and tomorrow night, reaching as high as 50°F (10°C). Rain will move into the area as the low pressure center moves towards us on Thursday. Once the low moves further eastward and a cold front passes, shutting off the warm advection, temperatures will return to more seasonal values.

Extended Forecast

Today: Cloudy. High in the upper 30s °F (3°C).

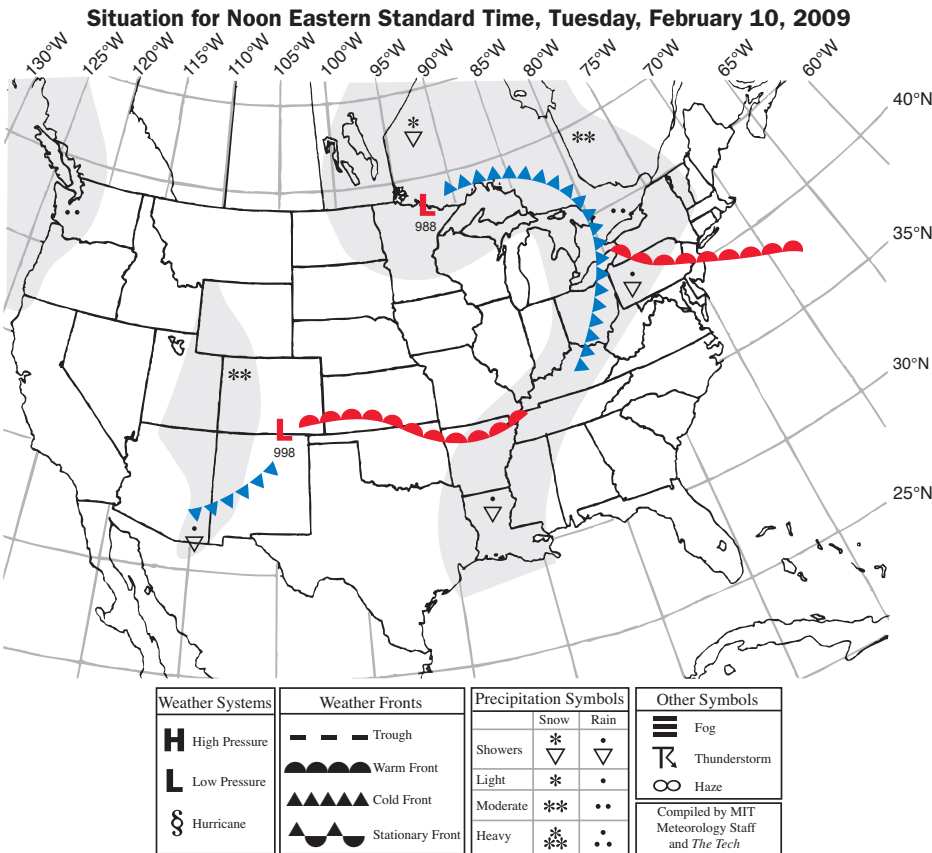
Tonight: Cloudy. Temperatures steady in the upper 30s °F (3°C).

Tomorrow: Cloudy. Temperatures rising into the upper 40s °F (9°C) throughout the day and evening.

Tomorrow night: Cloudy. Temperatures peaking around 50°F (10°C).

Thursday: Rain. Temperatures falling from 45°F (7°C) in the morning to 35°F (2°C) in the evening.

Friday: Sunny. High in the mid 40s °F (7°C).



In Anbar, Election Slogans Replaced By Language Of War

By Steven Lee Myers and Sam Dagher

THE NEW YORK TIMES

RAMADI, IRAQ

The postelection curfew has been lifted, the threats of violence muted after the intervention of envoys from the Iraqi army, the central government and the U.S. Marines. A cacophonous bustle has returned to the filthy, shattered streets of this provincial capital, once a base of the Sunni insurgency.

And still Faris Taha, one of the election’s victors, according to preliminary results, is too fearful to return to the region he will soon represent.

“I cannot go back,” he said, having retreated from his hometown east of Ramadi, the capital of Anbar province, to a hotel in Baghdad’s Green Zone. “I am afraid.”

Iraq’s provincial elections on Jan. 31 passed with strikingly little mayhem, raising hopes that democracy might take hold. But in Anbar, as in other volatile provinces, the results that were supposed to augur peace have instead fueled tensions, raising the specter of violence among those vying for political power.

The transition from insurgency to politics to governance — a key to stabilizing the country after six years of war — has proved to be anything but steady and sure. What Anbar has yet to experience is the foundation of any democracy: a peaceful transfer of power. Seating the new provincial governments, Iraqi and American officials fear, could be even more fraught with danger than the elections themselves.

From Basra in the south to Mosul in the north, at least four candidates have faced assassination attempts since Election Day, while another disappeared on his way to work near Karbala. The divided results in Anbar, where no bloc won more than 17.6 percent of the vote, have led to conflicting accusations of intimidation, assault and fraud; a raft of complaints to the central election commission could take months to sort out.

Efforts to forge a ruling coalition, already under way behind the scenes, are exposing tribal rivalries and personal feuds. Most of the incumbents have decamped from the region they have governed since 2005.

“We were born yesterday when it

comes to politics,” said Sheik Ali al-Hatem, who backed the Tribes of Iraq coalition, which is challenging its 4.5 percent showing in the vote.

The outcome in Anbar, the vast Sunni-dominated region west of Baghdad, has enormous significance for Iraq’s political development. It was once the most dangerous province in Iraq, consumed by a bloody insurgency and terrorism, until tribal leaders joined the Americans and turned on al-Qaida and other extremists in late 2006. They pacified the region and made plans to consolidate their power at the ballot box.

What stunned Iraqi officials was how quickly after the vote some of the tribal leaders returned to the language of war when the elections’ outcome disappointed them.

Even before the results were announced, the leader of the party now known as the Awakening, Sheik Ahmed Abu Risha, threatened to turn his followers into an “armed wing” to overthrow the provincial government. The head of the Tribes of Iraq bloc, Sheik Hammid al-Hayes, threatened to set the streets of Ramadi ablaze and turn the province into a graveyard.

Trimmed Bill Still Offers Vast Sums for Education

By Sam Dillon

THE NEW YORK TIMES

The economic stimulus bill that is expected to win passage in the Senate on Tuesday would provide about \$83 billion for child care, public schools and universities.

That is a lot less than the \$150 billion voted by the House, but would still account for a vast increase in the federal share of the nation’s education spending.

If the bill passes the Senate, tough bargaining can be expected later this week between House and Senate negotiators over the Senate’s decision to eliminate all of \$20 billion in direct financing of school renovation, and over its trim of \$40 billion from the House’s proposed \$79 billion stabilization fund for states, much of which would be spent on schools and state universities.

The stabilization fund is intended to help states and school districts meet payrolls as tax revenue plummets in the recession. The 50 states and Puerto Rico, which on average spend roughly a third of all revenue on education, are facing budget shortfalls totaling some \$132 billion

this fiscal year and next, according to a report issued on Jan. 30 by the National Conference of State Legislatures.

Education Secretary Arne Duncan said Monday that the \$39 billion in aid to states proposed in the Senate bill was “not nearly as much as we need.” Addressing an audience of college administrators, Duncan said a forthcoming University of Washington study estimated that “almost 600,000 education jobs are at risk of state budget cuts.”

The Obama administration and Democratic lawmakers proposed unprecedented levels of education spending in both the House and Senate stimulus bills. And even after cuts made Friday by a bipartisan group led by Sens. Ben Nelson, D-Neb., and Susan Collins, R-Maine, the Senate bill would still provide \$80 billion in emergency spending for public schools and state universities, well above the Department of Education’s current \$59 billion discretionary budget.

Both the House and the Senate would hugely increase spending on Title I, a program of specialized

classroom efforts to help educate poor children, and on education for disabled children.

The House bill would raise Title I spending over two years by \$13 billion; for the current fiscal year, spending would rise to \$20 billion from about \$14.5 billion. The two-year increase in the Senate bill would be \$11.4 billion. Both the House and Senate bills would also increase federal spending on special education by \$13 billion over two years.

Spending on Pell Grants, the most important federal program of aid to college students, would also rise. The House bill would raise Pell spending to \$27 billion this year, from about \$19 billion. The Senate version would increase it a bit less.

Aside from their differing levels of aid to the states, the two bills differ most strikingly in school modernization financing, with the House legislation’s \$20 billion unmatched by any money in the Senate version.

On Sunday, Lawrence H. Summers, director of President Barack Obama’s National Economic Council, called such financing “absolutely essential.”

Obama Aides Clashed Over Bank Bailout Plan

By Stephen Labaton and Edmund L. Andrews

THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

The Obama administration’s new plan to bail out the nation’s banks was fashioned after a spirited internal debate that pitted the Treasury secretary, Timothy F. Geithner, against some of the president’s top political hands.

In the end, Geithner largely prevailed in opposing tougher conditions on financial institutions that were sought by presidential aides, including David Axelrod, a senior adviser to President Barack Obama, according to administration and congressional officials.

Geithner, who will announce the broad outlines of the plan on Tuesday, successfully pushed back against more severe limits on executive pay for companies receiving government aid. He resisted those who pushed to dictate how banks will spend their rescue money. And he prevailed over top administration aides who wanted to replace bank executives and wipe our shareholders at institutions receiving aid.

Because of the internal debate, some of the most contentious issues remain unresolved, even after the plan’s unveiling.

On Monday evening, new details emerged after lawmakers were briefed on the plan. It will call for the creation of a joint Treasury and Federal Reserve program, at an initial cost of \$250 billion to \$500 billion, to encourage investors to acquire soured mortgage-related assets from banks. The Fed will use its balance sheet to provide the financing, and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. may provide guarantees to investors who participate.

A second component of the plan will broadly expand, to between \$500 billion and \$1 trillion, an existing \$200 billion program run by the Federal Reserve to try to unfreeze the market for commercial, student, auto and credit card loans.

A third component will involve a review of the capital levels of all banks, including projections of future losses, to determine how much additional capital each bank should receive. The capital injections would

come out of the remaining \$350 billion in the Troubled Asset Relief Program, or TARP.

A separate, \$50 billion initiative to enable millions of homeowners facing imminent foreclosure to renegotiate the terms of their mortgages will be announced next week.

Some of Obama’s political advisers had advocated tighter restrictions on aid recipients, arguing that rising joblessness, populist outrage over Wall Street bonuses and expensive perks, and the poor management of last year’s bailouts could feed a potent political backlash if the administration does not demand enough sacrifices from the companies that receive federal money.

They also worry that any backlash could make it difficult to win congressional approval for more bank rescue money, which the administration could need in coming months.

For his part, Geithner, who makes his debut as Treasury secretary and as the public face of the historic bailout on Tuesday, will blame corporate executives for much of the economic crisis, according to officials.

FDA to Place New Limits on Prescriptions of Narcotics

By Gardiner Harris

THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

Many doctors may lose their ability to prescribe 24 popular narcotics as part of a new effort to reduce the deaths and injuries that result from these medicines’ inappropriate use, federal drug officials announced Monday.

A new control program will result in further restrictions on the prescribing, dispensing and distribution of extended-release opioids like OxyContin, fentanyl patches, methadone tablets and some morphine tablets.

These products are classified as Schedule II narcotics and already are restricted according to rules jointly administered by the Food and Drug Administration and the Drug Enforcement Agency. But the current restrictions have failed to “fully meet the goals we want to achieve,” said Dr. John K. Jenkins, director of the FDA’s new drug center.

“What we’re talking about is putting in place a program to try to ensure that physicians prescribing these products are properly trained in their safe use, and that only those physicians are prescribing those products,” Jenkins said in a news conference on Monday. “This is going to be a massive program.”

Hundreds of patients die and thousands are injured every year in the United States because they were inappropriately prescribed drugs like OxyContin or Duragesic, or they took the medicines when they should not have or in ways that made the drugs dangerous. The agency has issued increasingly urgent warnings about the risks, but the toll has only worsened in recent years.

Google Taking a Step into Power Metering

By Matthew Wald and Miguel Helft

THE NEW YORK TIMES

SAN FRANCISCO

Google will announce its entry Tuesday into the small but growing business of “smart grid,” digital technologies that seek to both keep the electrical system on an even keel and reduce electrical energy consumption.

Google is one of a number of companies devising ways to control the demand for electric power as an alternative to building more power plants. The company has developed a free Web service called PowerMeter that consumers can use to track energy use in their house or business as it is consumed.

Google is counting on others to build devices to feed data into PowerMeter technology. While it hopes to begin introducing the service in the next few months, it has not yet lined up hardware manufacturers.

“We can’t build this product all by ourselves,” said Kirsten Olsen Cahill, a program manager at Google.org, the company’s corporate philanthropy arm. “We depend on a whole ecosystem of utilities, device makers and policies that would allow consumers to have detailed access to their home energy use and make smarter energy decisions.”

“Smart grid” is the new buzz phrase in the electric business, encompassing a variety of approaches that involve more communication between utility operators and components of the grid, including transformers, power lines, and even home appliances like dishwashers.

Dragons Are Kept at Bay in China, And Riot Ensues

By Andrew Jacobs

THE NEW YORK TIMES

BEIJING

Social unrest is not uncommon across the Chinese hinterland. There were an estimated 120,000 strikes, protests or riots last year, most of them incited by popular dissatisfaction over government corruption, the illegal confiscation of land or workers agitating for unpaid wages.

But a clash between the police and residents in rural Guizhou province on Sunday may be the first disturbance inspired by a dragon dance, or at least a thwarted one.

According to officials and residents in Dejiang, at least a dozen people were injured during a riot that began when the police tried to stop the traditional lunar new year procession from winding through the city’s narrow streets. At one point, soldiers were called in to quell the disturbance. Three of the injured were police officers, officials said.

The dragon dance, performed by a troupe of volunteers who wear segments of the beast, is believed to bring good luck, prosperity and nourishing rains. It is often a chaotic affair punctuated by the clanging of cymbals, the banging of drums and the deafening crackle of firecrackers.

Dejiang’s dragon dances, which draw more than 100,000 people, are so beloved that the provincial government recently designated the festival a “cultural treasure.”

Executives at Barclays Defend Staff Bonuses

By Julia Werdigier

THE NEW YORK TIMES

LONDON

Top managers at Barclays on Monday defended the payment of bonuses to staff members and warned that escalation of a public dispute between lawmakers and financial executives could harm the industry.

Robert Diamond Jr., Barclays’ president and head of its investment banking business, said he still believed in bonuses as a way to provide incentives to staff members.

“Incentive compensation is important, and we look forward to a public debate,” Diamond said on the sidelines of the bank’s news conference to present its annual earnings in London.

Marcus Agius, the chairman, said the controversy about bankers’ bonuses was “not helpful” because it was “very emotional.”

The British banking sector is facing an outcry against bonuses paid to bankers while shareholders watched the value of their investments diminish rapidly last year. There is also growing anger about bonuses being awarded at Royal Bank of Scotland, even though the bank has received billions of pounds from the government to withstand the financial crisis.

John Prescott, a former deputy prime minister, said such payments would be “a reversal of Robin Hood — rob the poor to pay the rich.”

OPINION

The Crisis Within and the Voice Abroad

The Struggle for Tamil Independence

Jegan Vincent de Paul

Even here at MIT, with so many students and faculty interested in finding solutions to the great problems of our world, very few have knowledge of the humanitarian catastrophe currently unfolding on the island of Sri Lanka.

In fact, Asia's longest running civil war is hardly known in most parts of the world. Western attention has been manifestly disproportionate to the loss of more than 70,000 lives during 25 years of fighting between the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) and the Government of Sri Lanka. Even with the beginning of 2009 marking the height of the war with hundreds of Tamil civilians dead and hundreds of thousands internally displaced, the world remains silent.

The minority Tamils — both civilian and LTTE — have their dedicated, but limited, voice and support.

Since late January, the global Tamil diaspora have held countless protests in the form of hunger strikes, human chains, and mass gatherings. On January 29, more than 10,000 French Tamils demonstrated in Paris protesting the killings and urging foreign nations to stop military aid to the Sri Lankan Government. Over the next few days, 45,000 Canadian Tamils and 100,000 British Tamils gathered to express solidarity and to plead that the international community deliver aid, recognize the LTTE, and encourage a ceasefire. Well into February, the call for immediate international intervention remains unheeded.

The Tamil diaspora started forming soon after Sri Lanka gained independence in 1948 and Tamils, as the ethnic minority, became relegated to second class citizenry. By the 1970s, the LTTE had formed and began its guerilla movement against the government — made of the Sinhalese ethnic majority — to reclaim the Tamil homeland in the north and east of the island.

With increased fighting between the forces, the 1980s saw a large number of Tamil refugees — including my family and I — immigrate to India, Europe, and North America. Even as the country constantly collapsed into periods of turmoil, no one could have expected the crises to unfold into what they have become

within the last month. In December, the New York-based Genocide Prevention Project listed Sri Lanka on the top eight “red-alert” countries experiencing or at of risk of genocide.

Adopting and re-enforcing the “war on terror” doctrine in early 2008, the Sri Lankan Government officially withdrew from the Norwegian-led 2002 ceasefire and began an expanded military campaign to eliminate the LTTE at all costs, including risking the safety of a massive civilian population that over the past decade has been integrated into the civil society built and governed by the LTTE.

The town of Kilinochchi, the civic pride of the LTTE, was captured in early January by the Sri Lankan Army and is now desolate, with the vast majority of its people displaced within a shrinking patch of jungle. The International Committee of the Red Cross declared a major humanitarian crisis with over 250,000 civilians caught in the midst of an increasingly unstable war zone with little or no foreign aid allowed to reach them.

The plight of the trapped Tamils is expounded across the sea in the southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu. Since late January, the state's students have carried out an entire series of demonstrations in desperate bids to draw attention to Sri Lanka's war, calling on India to negotiate an immediate ceasefire. On January 29th, a Tamil Nadu journalist burned himself to death after writing a statement condemning Indian inaction and military support to the Sri Lankan Government. His death triggered an 8 km long funeral procession and increased protests supporting the Tamil cause.

Nothing can easily be done. Sri Lanka has very little geo-political importance in the world, and the government stands convinced of its military campaign and strategy for success with regards to the ethnic conflict.

In early February, Sri Lanka's Defense Secretary Gotabaya Rajapaksa warned that all foreign agencies “will be chased away [if they try] to give a second wind to the LTTE terrorists at a time the security forces, at heavy cost, are dealing them the final death blow.”

In regards to media access during the civil war's most violent moment, the Sri Lankan government is sticking to its words against international diplomacy. All independent journalists are banned from the Vanni region in the

northeast — the epicenter of the atrocities.

UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Navi Pillay announced that the conflict had reached a “critical” stage, noting that ‘while the government has made military gains on one hand, the rule of law has been undermined on the other.’

More than twenty years ago, well before today's escalated violation of Tamil civilian rights, my mother foresaw the lack of opportunity and danger that awaited her Tamil children if they remained in Sri Lanka; she took us out of the country to claim new identity as Canadians — in Canada we were no longer Sri Lankans. For the Tamil civilians that stayed behind, life became increasingly difficult with tens of thousands of extrajudicial killings and disappearances orchestrated by the Sri Lankan government.

Today, the LTTE continues its justified fight for Tamil Eelam — a sovereign Tamil state with an identity distinct from that of the Sri Lankan state. The Sri Lankan government's military campaign has degraded Tamil Eelam into a less than 300 square-kilometer patch of jungle, dismantling its civic identity and territorial autonomy; repetitive bombings of hospitals and civilian areas by the Sri Lankan Army continue to this hour.

The situation is even more dire because the Sri Lankan Army — whose every member is Sinhalese — has ethnic motivations behind its use of violence. The Sri Lankan government's strategic labeling of the LTTE as a terrorist organization — re-coding the ethnic conflict as one of a legitimate state against a criminal actor — has only served to undermine long-term peace and diplomacy both on the island and abroad.

Communication between Velupillai Pirapaharan, the leader of the LTTE, and Sri Lanka's President Mahinda Rajapaksa is non-existent today. Sri Lanka's problem is no longer an internal conflict — it can only be solved through a change in policy and the voice of the international community. It is not inability, but unwillingness, that prevents the UN, the United States, and other nations to immediately bring the war to an end, supporting Tamil statehood as the only solution.

Jegan Vincent de Paul is a graduate student in the School of Architecture and Planning.



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CAMPUS LIFE

Ramblings From Hell

Childhood Dreams

S. Campbell Proehl
STAFF COLUMNIST

When I was four, I told my mother that I wanted to grow up to be a cocktail waitress. “I never want to leave home,” I said, “I want to stay here with you forever.” Whenever I remember this, I laugh, until I realize that seventeen years later, my desires aren’t so different. My vision of the perfect life does not include living with my parents and funding a Netflix account with tips, but lately I’ve been thinking that I wouldn’t mind living the simple life. I have been wound so tightly for the past three years that all I want to do is throw away my telephone and live in a city where I know just enough of the language to get by. I spent the winter living in a seventh story walk-up in Tianjin, China without Internet, and

it was wonderful. I had a buckwheat pillow and a blanket and a toilet that barely flushed, and the most stressful part of my day was worrying about whether the gate to my alley would be locked when I came home late. It was nothing like this place. One night, when the other MIT students and I were sitting on the floor drinking forty-ounce bottles of cheap Chinese beer and talking about what we wanted to do with our lives, I revealed my secret desire to do nothing. I told them about how I pictured my two kids running around in natural cotton and creating art out of things we found together in the woods or on the banks of the nearby creek and how I wished I had a trust fund so that we could just hang out and eat fresh food and never have to work.

It felt odd sharing this with two other MIT students. I have always felt like there was an expectation that students who come here have plans to do great things. People don’t usually attend MIT and work for thousands of hours on differential equations so that they can spend their lives collecting hubcaps and concocting new recipes for cranberry jam. I had a feeling I was about to be ripped to shreds by two chemical engineers and a mathematician. But I wasn’t. Two of them felt much the same way. I think science is fascinating. I really do. The problem is that I have spent almost every waking hour of the last three years reading and calculating and pipetting and right now all I want is a break. What sparked this recent freak-out was a

night out in Beijing near the end of my trip. In search of the cheapest beer, we ended up at a second-floor bar with a Latin band and a young American bartender. I remember looking at her and feeling so envious because she just looked sublimely blithe. And as my friend and I were salsa dancing our little hearts out, I looked over at this bartender and wished that we could trade places so that I could stay there forever to serve people in Yanjing and watch fools like me dance. But the reality is that fools like me just got dealt different cards. She ended up in a bar in Beijing. I ended up at the Institute. And now, without a trust fund or a man willing to sire two creative and free-spirited children at this point in his life, I’m going to have to try science. Farewell, childhood dream.

Brouhaha Rhythm

Flogging the Gift Horse

By Michael Lin
CAMPUS LIFE EDITOR

The practice of gift-giving around this or any other time of year can be a tricky proposition. Excellent gift ideas abound, but giving the right gift to the right person (at the right price) often requires a certain element of finesse that tends to come and go, at least for me. Gimmicky gifts only make matters more complicated, with their often-overestimated merit invested more in novelty than practical use. Sure, that Christopher Walken bobblehead seemed ironic and amusing back in December, but when someone opens up their gift in a bag because you couldn’t be moved to wrap it yourself (sorry, Mom), is it really going to produce the “audible gasp and speechlessness” or “hyperventilating gush-fest” reactions you were hoping for? I’ve always thought that if a gift can be given to a wide variety of people and be equally effective, it’s not the right gift — hence my

disdain of “dozen red roses” as a Valentine’s Day gift. (I prefer custom arrangements, regardless of what scholars or Wikipedia say about the symbolism of red roses.) Although I suspect my insistence on highly personal presents is responsible for a great deal of stress and head-bashing (around finals time, no less), I find it to be a very necessary concussion if I’m to show the appropriate appreciation for my family, friends, and significant other. Besides, going out gift shopping also almost always inevitably nets me something worth buying for myself. Those who know me will recognize thrift store visits as the logical extreme of the bargain-hunting gene I inherited from my parents, although I’m certainly not above buying a pair of shoes brand-new on rare occasions. Especially when it’s a pair of black Converse All-Star high-tops. Those who know me will recognize the giddiness in my tone. Heeheehee.

Then there’s always the thorny issue of deciding precisely who does and does not receive a present and when to give the gift. If I had to buy personalized presents for all of my Facebook friends’ birthdays, I’d probably end up ignoring my rather powerful need to eat, living off of free dinner Thursdays and Sundays from *The Tech’s* budget. More than that, I’d probably lose all of those Facebook friends who would inevitably come under the impression that I was some kind of creepy stalker. It’s not my fault I had to do some digging in order to find their mailing address. Sheesh. Few ordeals are as particularly frustrating as trying to conjure gifts for those people who are seemingly impossible to shop for. You’d buy them clothes, if you only knew their sizes. You’d buy them meals, if you only know their tastes. What else could you get them? Gift cards? Is that really original? How much is enough? And from where? Twenty dollars spendable at Best Buy might be nice, but it’s

not exactly a guilt-free flat-screen in an envelope. Decisions, decisions. I once bought my best friend a cookbook as a gag gift. Apparently, it had slipped my mind that she and her family are positively prodigious chefs. I wish I were making this up — I’d probably have a lot more dignity left. As it stands, I’m pretty happy with the gift purchases I’ve made in the past few months. In the process, I’ve also bought myself a few things. Among said self-motivated purchases are the music CD to which I’m currently listening (the *Hook* sound track, if you’re wondering), for which I’d been prowling the thrift stores for ages but never found; trading cards; and a sticker for my laptop that says “Geek Power” on it. Now, if you’ll excuse me, I need to go do some more shopping. Giving personalized gifts also means giving personalized cards, and I learned after a middle school fiasco that 3x5 index cards just aren’t good enough. I wish I were making that up, too.

It’s Election Season at the Coop, now!

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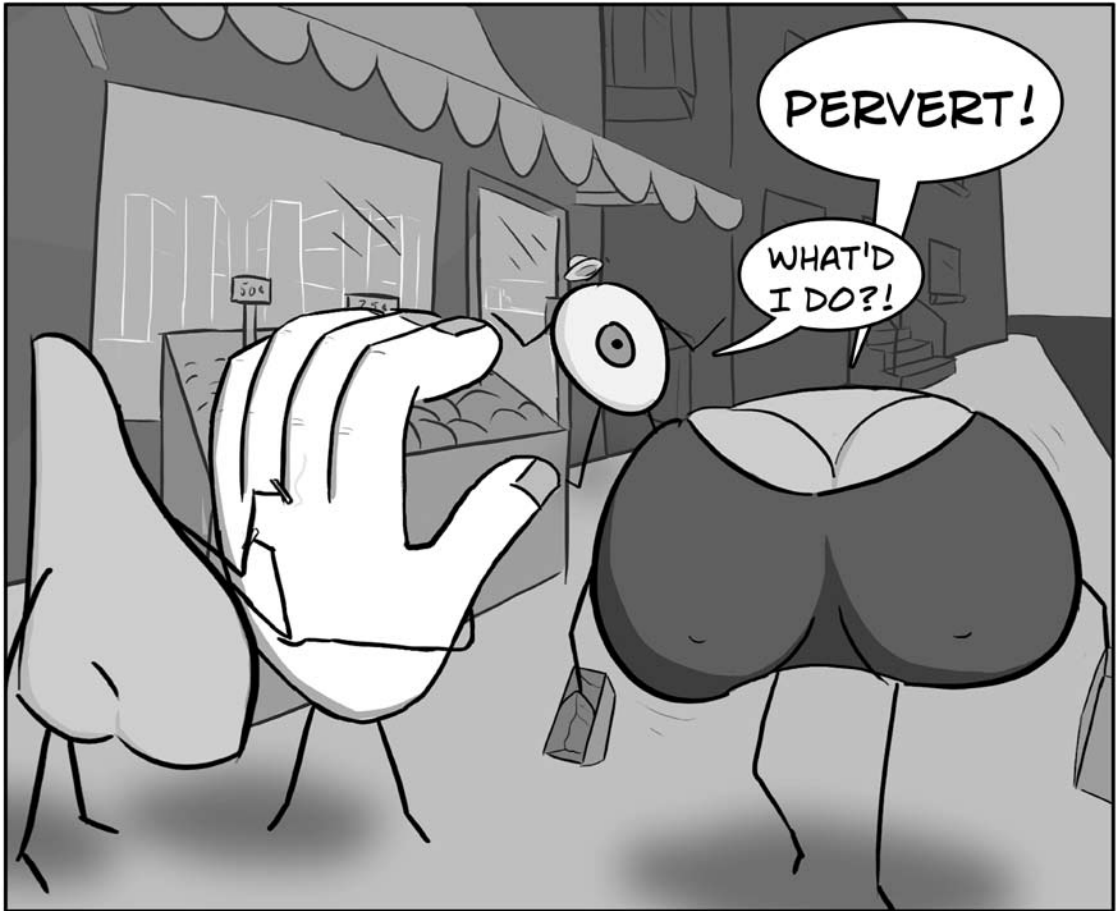
Good luck on the campaign trail!



[HTTP://www.thecoop.com](http://www.thecoop.com)

Steal My Comic

by Michael Ciuffo



su | do | ku

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Instructions: Fill in the grid so that each column, row, and 3 by 3 grid contains exactly one of each of the digits 1 through 9. Solution on page 8.

5		2			9			4
	1				6		7	5
						8		
		9		1				
	5						9	
				2		1		
		8						
6	2		5				3	
3			6			4		7

Solution, tips, and computer program at <http://www.sudoku.com>

The Daily Blunderbuss

by Ben Peters

The Evidence:

MIT



Crab



Need I say more?



Crossword Puzzle

Solution, page 8

ACROSS

- 1 Bottomless pit
6 Ship's pole
10 Umps' kin
14 Dream time
15 Bring on board
16 Lotion ingredient
17 Sign on a door, perhaps
19 Melancholy
20 Calendar abbr.
21 Half a golf course
22 Set sail
24 Fateful dates
25 Rani's garment
26 Teatime treats
29 Birthright
33 Inclined trough
34 Gardener's tools
35 Legal bargain
36 Profane utterance
37 "La __ Nikita"
38 Saucers without cups?

- 39 Ash or apple
40 Engenders wrath
41 Sneeringly derogatory
42 Wizard
44 Roast hosts
45 Eurasian deer
46 God of Memphis
47 Tenor Enrico
50 Staffs
51 Logger's tool
54 Downfall
55 Bet on instinct
58 __ the Red
59 That __ hay!
60 Loan sharking
61 Dry streambed
62 Ukrainian city
63 Calls to the phone

DOWN

- 1 Beginning on
2 Make less clear

- 3 Himalayan bigfoot
4 TV unit
5 Metrical foot
6 Gives a wide berth to
7 Yearn (for)
8 Trajectory
9 Practice a play
10 Blow to the back of the neck
11 Scat singer Fitzgerald
12 Two squared
13 Look for
18 "sex, __, & videotape"
23 Medical pic
24 When the chips are down
25 Appears
26 Dundee populace
27 "Chico and the Man" co-star

- 28 External
29 "Gulf Stream" painter
30 Caine's cockney
31 Crystal-lined rock
32 Lets up
34 Toast opener
37 Girasol
41 Break to bits
43 Goddess of the dawn
44 Peak in Sicily
46 \$ for viewing
47 Shipmates
48 Nimbus
49 Muckraker Jacob
50 Pablo's hand
51 Cozy
52 Pasture measure
53 Wherefores' partners
56 Actress Tyler
57 Springsteen's birthplace?

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14						15					16			
17					18						19			
20				21				22	23					
			24					25						
26	27	28					29				30	31	32	
33						34					35			
36					37						38			
39					40					41				
42				43					44					
			45					46						
47	48	49					50				51	52	53	
54					55	56					57			
58					59					60				
61					62					63				

Doonesbury
BY GARRY TRUDEAU

Dilbert® by Scott Adams

2009 CONFERENCE
CHINA IN DEVELOPMENT
TECHNOLOGY & ENTREPRENEURSHIP

University Exchange Panel

Thursday, 2/12, 5-7pm | Room 4-237

Cambridge meets Beijing! Meet delegates from China's top university Peking University! Participate in an exchange of ideas as MIT students and Beijing students meet to discuss the current issues facing China as it develops.
Dinner will be provided.

Technology & Entrepreneurship Panel

Friday 2/13, 5-6:30pm | Wong Auditorium

Discussion with world business leaders and MIT professors on the potentials and restraints of technology innovation and entrepreneurship in China.
Featuring: Yasheng Huang (Sloan China Economy Professor), Jeremy Segal (Senior Director of Business Development at Akamai), Eric Thurber (Senior VP of the Venture Group at Citi Smith Barney), Karl Sun (Former Head of Business Development at Google China, Investment Principle at Google).
Dinner will be provided.

Business Development Panel

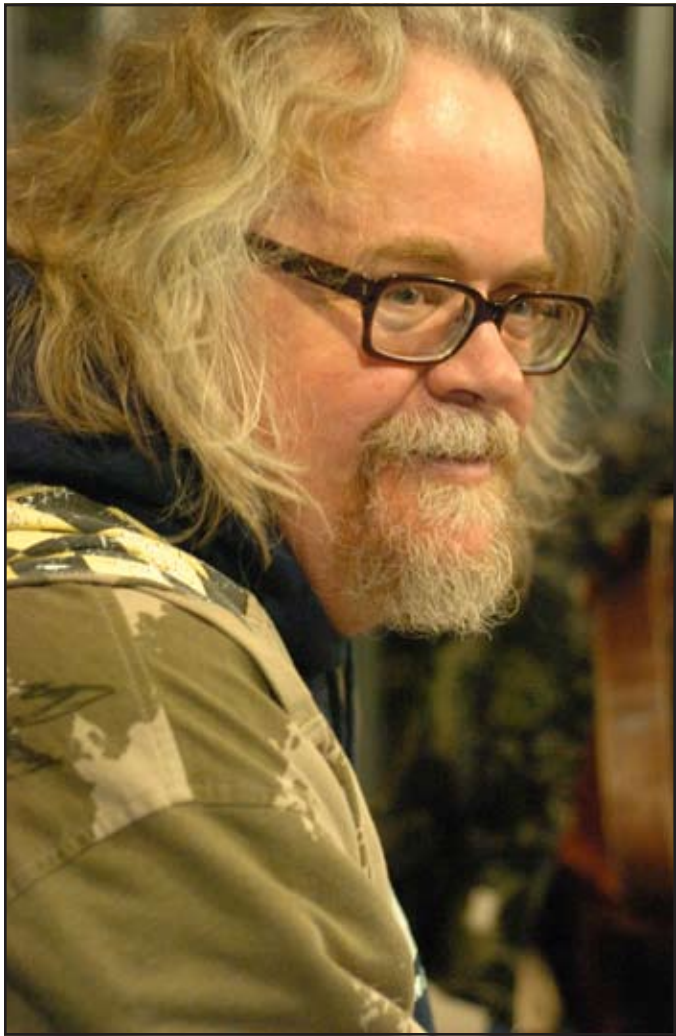
Friday 2/13, 6:30-8pm | Wong Auditorium

Discussions on opportunities in business development and investment in China amidst the world financial crisis.
Featuring: Sam Liao (Head of Business Development & Licensing at Novartis Asia), Curtis Eubanks (General Manager at British Telecom China). More speakers currently being finalized.
Dinner will be provided.

Coffee Chat with Chair of Bain Asia-Pacific

Wednesday, 2/18, 2pm | (RSVP required - limited attendance)

Conversation in small group with Manny Maceda, Chair of Bain Asia-Pacific. If you are interested, please send your resume to mit.cdi.conference@gmail.com. We will notify you if you are confirmed for the event.



Popular street artist Ron English spoke with students at the Student Art Association's open house on Saturday in the Coffeehouse of the Stratton Student Center. English is best known for his billboard modifications and his painting combining the faces of Abraham Lincoln and Barack Obama.

Brass Rat Combines Tradition With Anniversary Celebrations

Ring Premiere, from Page 1

sizing the class's potential to impact the world. In its other paw, a scale grows into a sapling. Ring Committee member Daniel Chen '11 stated this was one of his favorite parts of the ring. "[The symbol] recognizes that we only have one earth, and MIT's environmental initiative is a leader in the cause," Chen said.

The 150th Smoot is marked on

the bridge behind the beaver, honoring the sesquicentennial anniversary of MIT in the sophomores' graduation year, as well as the 50th anniversary of the night Oliver R. Smoot '62 became a unit of length.

The Hacker's Map on the underside of the ring now includes the Koch Building, which broke ground during the class' freshman year. The windows of the Green Building on the Cambridge skyline

are lit to spell out "2011" in binary. Sails on boats in the Charles are marked "11."

The class shank on the side of the ring portrays goddess of wisdom Athena modeling the right hand rule. Behind Athena looms the Great Dome, on top of which three hackers work their mischief in the shadows.

The seal shank includes the "nuts and bolts" MIT insignia, but the three screws are rotated such that they read "X + I," Roman numerals that add to the class year. Behind this lies the logo for CERN, the organization responsible for the Large Hadron Collider, which first started firing in September.

"I found the overall design to be pretty classy," Michelle S. Chang '11 said.

Before the real ring design was brought out, members of the Ring Committee introduced a gag ring that depicted the beaver clutching an Anna's Taqueria super burrito in one paw, and a TEAL clicker in the other.

The audience's shock quickly turned to laughter as other parts of the ring were unveiled. Flanking the beaver were the Z-Center and a construction crane operated by Charlie the Unicorn. Students inside the translucent Z-Center spelled "PUNT" with their bodies.

At this point, Ring Committee Chair Mitchell T. Westwood '11 admitted to the assembly that this "awesome" plan was only a spoof ring, a prank that has not been pulled since the ring premiere for the Class of 2008.

"It was good fun after we realized what was going on," said Shireen Warnock '11.

Ring Delivery will take place on May 8 at the City Performing Arts Center. Ordering will take place through Thursday in Lobby 13, as well as Friday, Feb. 13 and Tuesday, Feb. 17 to Thursday, Feb. 19 in Lobby 10. The committee will be subsidizing a \$25 discount to the first 800 sophomores who order a ring.



MIT Hackers placed a giant mock Brass Rat above the entrance to the Infinite Corridor in Lobby 7 on Friday morning, the day of the 2011 Ring Premiere.

Solution to Crossword

from page 6

A	B	Y	S	S	S	P	A	R	R	E	F	S
S	L	E	E	P	H	I	R	E	A	L	O	E
O	U	T	T	O	L	U	N	C	H	B	L	U
F	R	I	N	E	S	A	R	I	E	M	B	A
I	D	E	S	S	A	R	I	E	M	B	A	R
S	C	O	N	E	S	H	E	R	I	T	A	G
C	H	U	T	E	H	O	E	S	P	L	E	A
O	A	T	H	F	E	M	M	E	U	F	O	S
T	R	E	E	I	R	E	S	N	I	D	E	
S	O	R	C	E	R	E	R	E	M	C	E	E
R	O	E	S	P	T	A	H					
C	A	R	U	S	O	M	A	N	S	S	A	W
R	U	I	N	P	L	A	Y	A	H	U	N	C
E	R	I	C	A	I	N	T	U	S	U	R	Y
W	A	S	H	L	V	O	V	P	A	G	E	S

Solution to Sudoku

from page 6

5	8	2	1	7	9	3	6	4
9	1	4	8	3	6	2	7	5
7	3	6	2	5	4	8	1	9
2	4	9	7	1	3	5	8	6
1	5	3	4	6	8	7	9	2
8	6	7	9	2	5	1	4	3
4	7	8	3	9	2	6	5	1
6	2	1	5	4	7	9	3	8
3	9	5	6	8	1	4	2	7

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RACHEL FONG—THE TECH

On Thursday evening, the List Visual Arts Center held an opening reception for its new exhibitions: Melanie Smith's "Spiral City & Other Vicarious Pleasures" and Taylor Davis and Nicole Cherubini's "In Contention." An exhibit is shown.

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Ragon Institute Will Fund Novel Projects To Combat HIV/AIDS

Ragon Institute, from Page 1

Ragon told the *Boston Globe* that he wants researchers to seek out innovative ideas that may seem risky and that would otherwise have a hard time finding funding.

“The problem with funding is that people are conservative when money is tight,” Walker said. “You get funded after you do it. Innovative ideas don’t get funding.”

Chakraborty said that combining resources from different disciplines and institutions makes for a stronger whole.

“MIT brings together engineering, physical sciences, and immunology to develop a very strong program in immunology,” said Chakraborty. “MIT though does not have so much clinical science as Harvard Medical School and Massachusetts General Hospital.”

Professor of Chemical Engineering Christopher Love said that MIT will also contribute its cutting edge technology to the project.

“We have an opportunity to focus on a really substantial problem with a perspective that hasn’t been attempted. That’s how MIT fits into the equation,” Love said.

The steering committee for the institute will be headed by Walker and includes Chakraborty and Darrell Irvine PhD ’00, a professor of Material Sciences and Engineering and Biological Engineering. Also on the committee are Laurie Glimcher, a professor of Immunology at Harvard University; Dan Barouch, a professor in the Division of Viral Pathogenesis at Harvard Medical School; and Marcus Altfeld, a professor at the AIDS Research Center of Massachusetts General Hospital.

MIT faculty who will be substantially involved with the institute include Love; Jianzhu Chen, a professor of Biology; and Hidde Ploegh, a

professor of Biology and member of the Whitehead Institute.

Among other research areas, the Ragon Institute plans to explore the immune response to HIV, a process that still holds many mysteries.

Love said that 1 in 300 humans are naturally immune to HIV. These special individuals contract HIV but are able to defend against it and, through some mechanism that controls the virus’ replication, do not develop AIDS.

“Most people with HIV get a progressive infection that keeps going,” said Walker. “Some are infected for 30 years and are entirely well.

Walker believes that these people may hold the key to building an AIDS vaccine. “We are vigorously studying this group of people,” he said.

Ragon and Walker first met two years ago. Walker does some of his work in South Africa where there is an advanced clinical and research site that has saved many lives with its use of electronic medical records. After meeting with a salesman from Ragon’s company, which sells the electronic medical records software, he eventually found himself in Ragon’s office in Cambridge.

A few weeks later, to Walker’s surprise, Ragon came on a trip with him to South Africa to better learn about AIDS victims. The trip deeply affected Ragon, who later agreed to fund a HIV vaccine trial that Walker was running.

Ten months later, Walker met with Ragon to discuss progress on the vaccine trials. But Ragon had something else in mind.

“Ragon interrupted me 15 minutes through and said it sounds like what you need is \$10 million a year for 10 years,” Walker said. It was just unbelievable. I had known him about 10 months.”



Actress Renée Zellweger received Hasty Pudding Theatricals’ 2009 Woman of the Year Award at Harvard University on Thursday. She was accompanied in the parade by members of the Hasty Pudding Theatricals who were dressed in drag.



Lincoln-Sudbury High students collaborate on the team question at halftime during the Blue Lobster Bowl, a regional high school competition of the National Ocean Sciences Bowl, in 26-100 on Saturday.



Cynthia S. Lu ’12 performs a piece on her hulusi at the Lunar New Year Festival, held last Saturday by the Association of Taiwanese Students.

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Technology Leaves Fingerprints on the Stimulus Bill

By **Charlie Savage**
and **David D. Kirkpatrick**
THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

To rally support for his administration's economic recovery bill last week, President Barack Obama invited about a dozen chief executives, seven of them from technology and energy companies, to the Oval Office.

Some of their industries' top lobbyists, meanwhile, gathered in another office where Jason Furman, a top White House economic adviser, delivered a private briefing for groups expected to benefit most from the stimulus bill.

While much of the sprawling \$800 billion legislation consists of tax cuts and broad spending increases for existing programs, like \$27 billion on highways and \$8.4 billion on public transit, the biggest outlay on new initiatives is essentially a technology industry wish list: In the Senate version, about \$7 billion for expanding high-speed Internet access, some \$20 billion for building a so-called smart grid power network and \$20 billion for digitizing health records.

To many on K Street, the stimulus bill was the clearest guide to the new administration's closest friends in the business world. What oil was to President George W. Bush, some say, clean energy and technology are to the Obama White House.

"We have a president who gets it," said Dean Garfield, the president of the Information Technology Industry Council, which recently identified the Senate initiatives in a short list of its top priorities.

A close look at the history of the stimulus bill — the first major product of the new administration — shows that the industries that stand to gain most from the proposed legislation were also working to help shape it even before Obama had won the election.

For months, the industry officials had been talking with Obama advisers about how to use taxpayer aid to jump-start the economy while laying the groundwork for both the new president's and their own goals of building a high-tech infrastructure.

Obama's advisers say that the administration was only following through on the public promises he made in a campaign that began with a call two years ago to curb America's dependence on foreign oil and extend broadband access "through the heart of inner cities and rural towns all across America."

And they emphasized that Obama had taken unusual steps to disclose what those firms were saying, like posting any proposals submitted to the transition on its Web site, in contrast to the Bush administration's fight to keep secret how fossil fuel company executives shaped its energy policy in

2001. "Whatever they shared, we put out there so the public could see it," said John Podesta, president of the liberal Center for American Progress and co-chairman of the transition.

Campaign finance records also show that executives at many of the energy and technology companies that stand to profit from the stimulus bill were also big contributors to Obama's campaign. His promises about a "smart grid" and universal broadband dovetailed with the dreams of many in the technology industry, as well as allied fields like renewable energy and electric power.

Drawing on renewable energy sources, like wind turbines and solar panels, would be easier with a smart grid that could handle inconsistent electricity production. More energy would lower the cost of running giant computer servers, and because such a grid can send signals in both directions, it would also allow variable pricing for peak hours and could potentially expand the Internet network, as would extending other forms of broadband lines to rural and under-served areas.

And moving health records online would open new markets for digital connections, data storage and consumer services.

"They all converge," said Christopher G. Caine, vice president for governmental programs at IBM, which is in both the smart grid and health care data businesses. At the transition's request, IBM prepared a research report concluding that \$30 billion in spending this year on the smart grid, broadband access and digitized health records would create approximately 949,000 jobs.

The idea of harnessing such pre-existing proposals to a stimulus package traces back to September 2008, when the financial crisis was worsening and it became clear that a jobs bill could be an early priority if Obama won the election.

Obama advisers including Furman, Julius Genachowski and Austan Goolsbee began soliciting input from the high-tech and alternative energy interests, including General Motors, IBM, Google, the Information Technology Industry Council and the electric utilities' Edison Institute.

By October, "there was a query that said 'if you had money to spend on broadband as part of this stimulus, what would you propose?'" said Debbie Goldman, a lobbyist for the Communications Workers of America, which has pushed for greater government spending on broadband.

After the election, the campaign's policy teams went through their agenda and selected those items that could have a quick start and natural end date to identify candidates for a jobs bill.

"Synergies between our short-term

goals and our long-term goals," David Axelrod, a top adviser to Obama, said in an interview, "that was the sweet spot."

The transition also sought expert advice, holding conference calls and meetings at its temporary headquarters in Washington with a parade of industry lobbyists and executives from high-tech and clean energy companies from mid-November to early December.

On Dec. 2 for example, Goldman of the communications workers union made a presentation promoting the jobs that would be created by broadband spending. On the same day, representatives of all the renewable energy trade groups sat around a table making pitches to Carol M. Browner, who is now Obama's energy policy chief.

"It was nice they were having us all in so early," said Karl Gawell of the Geothermal Industry Association, whose members would benefit from \$400 million in grants in the House version of the stimulus bill.

The process reached a climax when members of the economic team flew to Chicago for a Dec. 16 meeting with Obama. The team laid out the structure of the plan — increased spending on infrastructure, education, energy and health care, along with tax cuts, financial aid to states and unemployment and food stamp benefits.

While much of the presentation involved broad themes, Furman said it put special focus on "a number of high-priority flagship details" like the renewable energy and high-tech components. Obama signed off on it, after making a few adjustments.

"The president-elect was particularly interested in the energy compo-

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nent of the plan and pushed for a more robust effort on the smart grid," Furman recalled.


Three days later — the Friday before Christmas — transition officials met at the Capitol with congressional leaders and staff to present the proposals, which Furman said were couched in the form of "suggestions" by the president-elect.

His team had few staff and relied on Congress to convert their ideas into legislative language. Congressional committees, meanwhile, had been working since November to draft their own version of a stimulus bill, and added their own details to Obama's

blueprint. For example, House Democrats attached privacy protections to measures that promote the online storage of medical records, banning the sale of health data, an idea long pushed by the American Civil Liberties Union.

Garfield of the Information Technology Industry Council said technology lobbyists accepted the privacy rules in a spirit of compromise, in light of the victories they won elsewhere with Obama's help.

"I won't say it is great to be the king, because we are not the king," Garfield said. "But it is good to be heard."



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The Endless Present

Eyal Weizman on the Architecture of Occupation on Israel Palestine

FEBRUARY 19, 2009

4:30p-6:00p

MIT Bldg 32-155

MAIN SPEAKER

Eyal Weizman is an architect based in London. He is the director of the Centre for Research Architecture at Goldsmiths College, University of London. Before this role, Weizman was professor of architecture at the Academy of Fine Arts in Vienna. In 2008, he became a member of the B'Tselem Managing Board. He has taught, lectured, curated and organized conferences at many institutions worldwide. His books include *Hollow Land*, *A Civilian Occupation*, the series *Territories 1, 2 and 3*, *Yellow Rhythms* and many articles in journals, magazines and edited books.

COMMENTATOR

Salim Tamari is director of the Institute of Jerusalem Studies and a professor of sociology at Birzeit University. He edits *Hawliyyat al Quds* and *Jerusalem Quarterly* and is also the author of several works on urban culture, political sociology, biography and social history, and the social history of the Eastern Mediterranean.

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Selection Process Takes Year Hockfield Makes Final Decision

Commencement, from Page 1

governor's biotech initiative, which offers a combined \$1 billion to companies and universities working on biotechnology, will "really boost" biotechnology in Massachusetts, he said.

Oaz Nir, president of the Graduate Student Council, said that "the choice highlights the way in which MIT research, particularly on energy, is in dialogue with policy decisions."

Grimson agreed. "It's a good choice for someone to speak not just from an industry perspective, but a government perspective," he said.

Student Reactions

Some students voiced praise for Patrick's accomplishments while others suggested more well-known speakers.

Julia N. Roberts '10, an undergraduate studying Civil and Environmental Engineering, said "I don't know too much about him, but I do know he's environmentally friendly." "In a year when politics are so important, I think it's a strong choice."

"I don't follow much local politics," said Swastik Kopparty G, a graduate student in Computer Science. But, Kopparty did remember that President Barack Obama was accused of plagiarizing one of Patrick's speeches during his campaign.

"At least it's better than Charles Vest," said Eloisa M. De Castro '09, who felt that Vest — the 2007 choice

— was too closely associated with MIT. She suggested "someone really big — like Obama."

Obama?

The possibility of President Barack Obama coming to speak at MIT's commencement in the coming years might not be too far-fetched, according to Grimson. He said that U.S. presidents traditionally speak at three college commencements a year.

Given that MIT's mission is very compatible with Obama's platform of energy innovation, Grimson is "very hopeful, with no evidence either way," that Obama would choose to speak at MIT's commencement in the coming years.

In 1998, President Bill Clinton decided to deliver an address. That year, MIT had two commencement speakers. David D. Ho, a leading AIDS researcher and the original choice, spoke alongside Clinton.

Selecting the Speaker

The commencement speaker is chosen by the Office of the President. A group appointed by the President known as the Commencement Committee makes suggestions to the president. The committee comprises around twenty faculty, students, and members of the administration.

Student members include the Undergraduate Association president and vice president, the Graduate Student Council president and vice president, and the senior year class

president and vice president.

A subcommittee solicits ideas from students and faculty, then reviews the suggestions, which are "on the order of hundreds," and compiles them into a list of "about 10" names, according to Grimson. This list, after being reviewed by the rest of the committee, is submitted to the president.

Grimson said the committee considers the speaking skill of candidates, whether or not their work connects to MIT, and whether they will be well-received by students.

"Personally, I would love to see Robin Williams," said Grimson. But he explained that the potential speaker needs to have a message that connects in some way to MIT.

Because the process of securing a commencement speaker takes a long time, the committees make recommendations for future years, according to Grimson. For example, Vivian Tang '09, senior class president, was not involved in the committee that planned this year's commencement speaker. She is on the committee that will recommend choices for next year's commencement speaker.

Grimson said that "most of the time" the speaker is on the list of the committee's recommendations. It happens "very, very frequently," he said. However, since the final decision is the president's, there have been times when the selected speaker was not on the committee's list. Grimson would not comment whether Patrick was on last year's list, since the lists stay confidential.

Adopted Child Transforms Himself Check Forger Now a Guru Speaker

Josh Shipp, from Page 1

Shipp said little changes can impact our future. Attitude matters. He said that after an unfortunate experience, we can choose to be bitter or better.

Growing up, Shipp chose to be bitter. As a baby, his parents his parents abandoned him at the hospital. Shipp passed through more than

a dozen foster homes growing up and turned to writing hot checks as a teen, which sent him to jail for a night.

His foster parents bailed him out. On the drive home, his father told him, "We don't see you as a problem. We see you as an opportunity."

After that, Shipp's life started to change for the better.

"I go to Taco Bell. Does that make me a taco? Just because you came from something doesn't mean you are that something," Shipp said.

For years the class clown, Shipp found a gift in his words. He began to speak to groups at 17.

"If you make someone laugh, you can tell them anything," he admitted.



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MAIN SPEAKER
Martin Feldstein, "the most influential economist of his generation," is economics professor at Harvard University, president emeritus of the National Bureau of Economic Research, and former chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers under President Reagan.



DISCUSSANT
Simon Johnson, an expert on the financial sector and economic crises, is Ronald A. Kurtz Professor of Entrepreneurship at MIT's Sloan School of Management. He served as economic counselor and director of the research department at the IMF from March 2007 to August 2008.

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“There is no disagreement that we need action by our government, a recovery plan that will help to jumpstart the economy.”

— PRESIDENT-ELECT BARACK OBAMA, JANUARY 9, 2009

With all due respect Mr. President, that is not true.

Notwithstanding reports that all economists are now Keynesians and that we all support a big increase in the burden of government, we the undersigned do not believe that more government spending is a way to improve economic performance. More government spending by Hoover and Roosevelt did not pull the United States economy out of the Great Depression in the 1930s. More government spending did not solve Japan’s “lost decade” in the 1990s. As such, it is a triumph of hope over experience to believe that more government spending will help the U.S. today. To improve the economy, policymakers should focus on reforms that remove impediments to work, saving, investment and production. Lower tax rates and a reduction in the burden of government are the best ways of using fiscal policy to boost growth.

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Men's Basketball Defeated by Coast Guard



The Coast Guard Academy stunned the Engineers in a 67-63 overtime result Saturday at Rockwell Cage. Coast Guard's Craig Johnson sunk a three-pointer "buzzer beater" at the end of the second half to force overtime, which allowed the Academy to take the win. MIT led the game until 1:49 left in regulation.

(top) MIT varsity basketball coach Larry Anderson communicates with players during a timeout.

(left) Senior James M. Bartolotta drives the basketball under pressure from a Coast Guard Academy player.

Photography by William Yee

UPCOMING HOME EVENTS

Tuesday, Feb. 10, 2009
Men's Volleyball vs. Daniel Webster College 7 p.m., Rockwell Cage

Thursday, Feb. 12, 2009
Men's Volleyball vs. Rivier College 7 p.m., Rockwell Cage

SCOREBOARD

Men's Basketball	
Saturday, February 7, 2009	
Coast Guard Academy (9-11)	67
MIT (16-6)	63

Women's Basketball	
Saturday, February 7, 2009	
Clark University (10-11)	69
MIT (4-15)	51

Men's Gymnastics	
Saturday, February 7, 2009	
Springfield College	326.05
MIT	309.0

Men's Track and Field	
Saturday, February 7, 2009	
Williams College and Coast Guard Academy	
MIT	1st of 3

Women's Track and Field	
Saturday, February 7, 2009	
Williams College and Coast Guard Academy	
MIT	2nd of 3

Men's Volleyball	
Saturday, February 7, 2009	
MIT (4-7)	0
Elms College (3-7)	3

Women's Ice Hockey	
Friday, February 6, 2008	
MIT (6-11-1)	2
UMass Boston (10-8-2)	8
MIT (6-12-1)	1
Holy Cross (18-1-1)	6



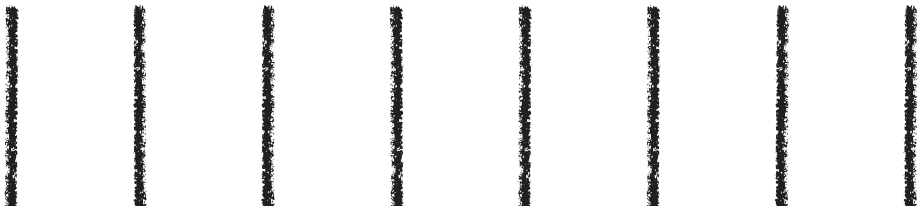
WILLIAM YEE—THE TECH

Timothy J. Stumbaugh '12 swims the 200 yard backstroke during the MIT Invitational this past Saturday at the Zesiger Center pool. Stumbaugh won the event with a time of 1:56.21 and was also victorious in the 400 individual medley on Friday. The Invitational was the last meet before NEWMAC championships at the end of the month.



WILLIAM YEE—THE TECH

Senior Amy J. Marshall attempts for a pass in front of two Clark College basketball players on Saturday in Rockwell Cage. The Engineers lost 69-51.



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SPORTS



Jack H. Bourbonnais '10 fights through a crowd of opponents during the men's 5000 meter run during the Engineers' indoor track meet at the Johnson Athletic Center on Saturday.

Men's Track & Field
Opens Home Slate with Win

The nationally-ranked No.7 MIT men's track and field team hosted Williams and Coast Guard in its first indoor meet of the season on Saturday afternoon at the Johnson track. The Engineers picked up 13 event wins and earned 171 points on their way to a comfortable win over second-place Williams (117.50). Coast Guard earned 87.50 points for third place.

Sports
Shorts

Jeremiah R. "Yermie" Cohen '09 picked up right where he left off last week at Bowdoin with a pair of wins in the mile and 800m. Cohen ran a 4:18.88 mile to take the event for the second-straight week, just outlasting Macklin Chaffee of Williams (4:19.19). Cohen then out-kicked Chaffee at 800 meters finishing just five hundredths of a second better than the second-place finisher at 1:58.16. Teammate William S. Phipps '09 was the next across the finish line at 1:59.08.

All-American Stephen A. Morton '10 earned 28 points for the host Engineers, winning his four specialties, the 55-meter dash, the 200 meters, and the long and triple jumps. Morton (6.54) just missed his own personal best at 55m, set last weekend at Bowdoin. He then raced to a comfortable win at 200m, finishing in 22.63, more than a second faster than the runner-up. A week after fouling out in the long jump a week ago, Morton found his home surface much more comfortable, clearing 7.09m, by far his best jump of the season. Morton (14.58m) and Mattias S. Flander '11 (13.69m) also teamed up to go one-two in the triple jump.

Despite those impressive individual performances, the Cardinal and Grey would not have won the meet so convincingly without the depth displayed in a number of other events. Hemagiri Arumugam '10 (8:50.83) led the way in the 3000m, as he, Paul D. Welle '11 and Daniel E. Harper '12 claimed three of the top four spots. Tech also had three finishers in the top four at 5000 meters, with Gihan S. Amarasiriwardena '11 crossing the finish line first at 15:26.51. MIT swept the top three spots in the shot put with Mitchell J. Kelley '11 throwing 13.79m for first.

The Engineers will host a Coed Invitational next weekend while also taking part in the Valentine's Meet at Boston University.

—Greg McKeever, DAPER Staff



Gregory I. Telian '11 focuses his attention downrange at the MIT vs. Navy Free Pistol competition this past Saturday in the basement of the duPont Athletic Center.



Jacob T. Shapiro '11 performs on the pommel horse in the men's gymnastics team's meet against Vermont University and Springfield College on Saturday in the duPont Athletics Center.

A photograph of an elderly man, Dylan Howe, holding up a large Arizona driver's license. The license lists his name as Dylan Howe, DOB 02-11-1987, and address as 254 Copper Ct, Phoenix, AZ 85086. It also shows his physical stats: Male, 6'0", 175lbs, Eyes BLU, Class D. The license has a star and the word "ORG" on it. Dylan is wearing a grey t-shirt and blue jeans, standing in a room with a studio light and a small table with a plant and a rotary phone in the background.

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